

Docket No. YOR920030129US1

REMARKS

The present application was filed on August 22, 2003 with claims 1-34. Claims 14 and 24-34 are proposed to be cancelled herein, without prejudice. Claims 1 and 23 are proposed to be amended herein to include all of the limitations of allowable claim 14. Claims 1-13 and 15-23 are presented herein for examination on the merits.

In the outstanding Office Action, the Examiner rejected claims 1-13, 15, 16 and 23 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as allegedly being unpatentable over Apen et al (US 2003/0017635 A1) (hereinafter "Apen"). In addition, claims 18-22 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as allegedly being unpatentable over Apen et al. in view of Shelnut (United States Patent No. 6,440,642). The Examiner indicated that claims 14 and 17 were allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

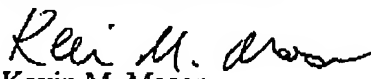
Applicants have amended claim 1 to include all of the limitations of allowable claim 14. Thus, Applicants submit that claim 1 and the associated claims that depend from claim 1 are allowable. In addition, Applicants have amended claim 23, which already effectively included all of the limitations of claim 1, to further include all of the limitations of allowable claim 14.

Accordingly, Applicant submits that all claims presented herein for examination, i.e., claims 1-13 and 15-23, are in condition for allowance and such favorable action is earnestly solicited.

If any outstanding issues remain, or if the Examiner has any further suggestions for expediting allowance of this application, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the telephone number indicated below.

The Examiner's attention to this matter is appreciated.

Respectfully submitted,


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